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Title:
Notes on Chowilla for NWS 9

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The S.A. Government is awaiting replies from the other three parties to the River Murray Waters Agreement on their attitude to its new legislation designed to preserve South Australia's right to the Chowilla Dam.

The four parties to the Agreement are the State Governments of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales and the Federal Government.

Legislation passed by State Parliament earlier retains South Australia's right to a dam at Chowilla and providing for construction of the Dartmouth Dam.

The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, has made it clear that it wants the Dartmouth project to go ahead without delay.

The only proviso it made is that its entitlement to Chowilla in the future should not be lost.

This was the purpose of the amendments to the River Murray Waters Act as presented to and passed by Parliament to ensure that the State retains a built-in right to Chowilla.

South Australia uses Murray water not only for irrigation but for 85% of its domestic and industrial supply. It wants protection for the quality of its water.

South Australia has not insisted that Chowilla be built at the same time or before the Dartmouth scheme -- it has only sought removal of two clauses in the proposed agreement which mean in effect that Chowilla will never be built.

CLAUSE 10a

Provides new inlet and outlet works at Lake Victoria estimated to cost \$7 million. These Lake Victoria works will be flooded if Chowilla is built. South Australia wants to ensure that this money not be taken into account against Chowilla when the time comes for deciding upon the River Murray storage to be built after Dartmouth.

CLAUSE 13

"However, completion of the construction of the Chowilla Reservoir shall be deferred until the Contracting Governments agree that the work shall proceed." This gives New South Wales, Victoria and the Commonwealth each a separate right of veto over any further work at Chowilla.

And Chowilla must be built to safeguard South Australia's future water supplies.

The River Murray is at present over-committed and extra storage capacity must be provided soon.

The South Australian Government has made it quite clear that it wants the Dartmouth project to proceed without delay, and this most recent move has been made to ensure that Dartmouth will be built with the promise of Chowilla in the future.